



King of the Bungle

What you see here, folks, is one furious feline. The urban legend goes that the owner, who had recently moved to Chicago from Oklahoma, took her kitty to a pet salon for a trim. What she wanted was a “line cut” ... which is supposedly where you clip the long hair under the cat’s belly. Unfortunately there was slight language barrier. The owner had an accent and the cat barber thought she said she wanted a “lion cut”. I can just hear the conversation now:

“I’ll have a liliine cut, please.”
“You sure you want a lion cut, lady?”
“Yes siree, a liliine cut.”
“O.K. One lion cut comin’ up.”
BUZZZZZ!

We can learn a lot from this cantankerous cat’s cut ... communication is critical. Communication is necessary with any job where there is more than one person working. It’s important that everyone involved clearly understands what their job is, and how they are to accomplish it. This is especially true in a hazardous environment, where a simple miscommunication can result in injury or death. One common term in miscommunication mishaps is the word “assume”. Like “I *assumed* the driver knew I was behind him” or “I *assumed* the other guy turned off the electricity” or “I *assumed* he didn’t have his hand in the machine when I turned it on.” I’ve said it once, and I’ll say it again ... *Communication is critical!*